

Reasons for Allowance

1. This application has been examined.
2. The RCE and Amendment filed 1/25/08 have been entered.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The amendment filed with the RCE 1/25/08 places the application into condition for allowance by adding the necessary limitations to claim 79, and by incorporating the objected claims into independent form. Note also that regarding new claims 161-163, even though not all of the second set of symbols are different than the first set of symbols; nevertheless, these claims contain additional features which together with all the other features distinguish over the art. Independent claims (1, 13, 25, 34, 40, 52, 64, 73, 88, 92, 95, 101, 104, 107, 111, 116, 119, 123, 125, 129, 132, 135, 144 – gaming device under control of a processor, and 79, 149, 154, 157, 159, 161, 162, 163 – gaming system) are not set forth in the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven P. Sax whose telephone number is (571) 272-4072. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Steven P Sax/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2174
